

To: Janis Cooke

I sent the comment below to you yesterday. Unfortunately, I made an error in your E-mail address. I hope you will still consider my comments even though I missed the deadline

Thank you
John Hopkins

>To:

>Janis Cooke

>Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

>

>June 8th 2005

>

>

>Re: proposed Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the
>Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins for the Control of Mercury
>in Cache Creek, Bear Creek, Sulfur Creek and Harley Gulch

>

>

>Dear Janis Cooke:

>

>I have just learned of the existence of the May 2005 Staff Report and the
>proposed action by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

>

>I request that you extend the public comment period and also initiate a
>discussion on the potential effects of the proposed action on removal of
>invasive exotic plant species, on riparian and wetlands restoration
>projects and on possible flood control by levee setbacks on the lower
>Cache creek. These are all very important beneficial uses with are
>essential to the future ecological health of Cache Creek. They are either
>hardly addressed or not addressed at all. It is not at all clear what the
>impact of the proposed action will be on these beneficial uses. This
>discussion should involve a wide range of parties including CalFed
>ecosystem restoration staff, local restoration and watershed groups,
>private landowners, local governments, other organizations and the
>interested public. These discussions need to be widely advertised.

>

>After completion of the discussions your staff should determine, in
>conjunction with these varied stakeholders, how to address these very
>important issues of mercury and methylmercury contamination without
>creating significant impacts of habitat restoration projects, invasive
>plant removal and levee setbacks. Then the proposed action should be
>modified and / or expanded upon to incorporate the results and to clarify
>that the (modified) proposed action will not have a significant adverse
>impact on restoration and other projects

>

>Thank you for your consideration of these brief comments

>

>Sincerely

>

>John Hopkins Ph.D.

>President

>Institute for Ecological Health

>409 Jardin Place

>Davis CA 95616

>ieh@cal.net